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The following is the statement of John Keough, of Ballykillmurphy, county Wicklow, in the employment of William Jones Westby, Esq., of High Park :

“About eight years past I and my son were cutting turf on Ballykillmurphy bog ; about five perches from the dry ground in the bog, and five feet from the surface, and about five more from the gravel, we found the accompanying sword. The bog had never been cut before ; at least it had all the appearance of being in its original state. About eight yards from the sword, and three feet deep, we found a vessel of wood, filled with what we considered suet ; it was in a perfectly mouldy state, as also the vessel, which fell to pieces when we took it up. The suet, to the best of my opinion, had never been rendered or boiled. The vessel was about the size of a small cool, made of staves, and had two iron hoops on it.”

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The Secretary read a letter from Richard Caulfield, Esq., of Cork, containing an account of the discovery of a chamber in Killeens Fort, situated two miles north of Cork.

*“Sunday’s Well, Cork, Jan. 12, 1850.*

“REV. DEAR SIR,—During one of my late explorations I happened to meet with an ancient stone head amid the rubbish of the south wall of Cloghphillip Castle, which fell down about a year and a half since, not, I am sure, without some cause, for this is not the only wall of a castle that has come under my notice, endangered by persons digging for gold ; which, when they dream of (as they say), nothing will prevent them from examining the favoured spot, and often undermining the wall.

“Cloghphillip Castle (it is marked on the map of Muskrye in the Pac. Hib.) stands on a very high eminence about one mile N. W. of Blarney Castle in this county, and commanding

a very extensive view of the country all round. It must have been used to great advantage as a signal tower, when Blarney Castle and others in this part of the county were defended, as, from its situation, Blarney commands no view. It was built by the M'Carthys, as well as Blarney, Kilcrea, and Macroom. As Kilcrea Castle can be seen from the top of Cloghphillip, a very ready mode of telegraphing may have been used in those days with Macroom, and thence with all the west of the County Cork. The difficulty of approaching Macroom in those times (which must have been a journey from Cork of near two days) may be conjectured from the account in the *Pac. Hib.* vol. ii. p. 602. How it obtained the cognomen 'Phillip,' I am unable to account, nor could I obtain any tradition relative to it from the oldest inhabitants of the locality. There is a stone in the north-east angle of the castle, with this inscription, 'D. C. K. 1590.' I have a rubbing of this stone. The nose of the head was mutilated in the fall; otherwise it is in fair condition. The forehead is encircled with a band composed of lozenges, a peruke covers the ears, and seems to have been formed by interweaving tresses. The mouth is open. On the whole, the appearance of the face is curious, though rude. There is a shank at the back by which it was inserted in the wall, but, singular enough, its existence was unknown until the wall fell down. If you think it would be worth the acceptance of the Royal Irish Academy, I will feel great pleasure in sending it up to you with the rubbing. A circumstance not unworthy of mention, as it tended to excite the prejudices of the country people, tended also to increase the difficulty I had in obtaining the head. The day after it was discovered, the person who found it inserted it in the pier of an old gate which separates the castle from a farmyard. On that evening, as the herdsman was returning home through this gate in charge of a bull, the animal, noticing the head, immediately took fright. His keeper, in endeavouring to

restrain him, was so goaded by the infuriated animal that he died on the following day. Some pigs were also killed by the falling of the wall, and all this was supposed to have occurred through the agency of the insulted genius of the castle. Thus the removal of the head was thought likely to be succeeded by a more disastrous course of events; but fortunately nothing since has occurred of such a nature, as indeed I ventured to promise. I may here remark, that the stone of which the head is composed is found in blocks under the foundation of the castle, but nowhere else in the vicinity.

“ I have been for most of the last week engaged in opening the Killeens Fort, situated about two miles north of this city. For two days our men were unsuccessful, but on the third I found out the crypt. I would recommend all my friends, when they go to explore a fort, at first to sound (if the entrance is not visible) with a long iron crowbar in different parts of it. Supposing a line drawn from east to west dividing the fort, let a strong workman be employed at each side of it. If this principle be adopted the flags will in most cases be certainly met with. If the ceiling of the cave be formed of earth the bar will disappear. Many a time I fervently wished that it would. I enclose a sketch showing the position of the cave, and a section of the cave of the fort, as far as I have discovered. The flags of the ceiling are of an enormous size, and are supported by huge blocks of stone, some of limestone (which is not found in this part of the country). But I regret to say that I have as yet discovered no inscription in this fort, which is the chief reason why I have opened so many of these places. However, when we have removed all the rubbish and clay with which the place is partly filled, I may be more fortunate. My great object is to examine all the forts for some miles round Cork. Although the work proceeds slowly, yet the investigation is accurate; but I assure you many difficulties present themselves during these operations when least expected. We have

to combat with old prejudices, which must be treated with apparent respect, and yet at the same time with firmness, so as to baffle the absurdities of the country people, who view our objects with a suspicion which reasoning with them only serves to increase. But really the stories that we are sometimes compelled to listen to are of so extraordinary and ludicrous a nature, that they amply atone for every obstacle. Sometimes they are in reference to the supposed inmates of the forts, "a very dangerous class of people;" and not unfrequently mixed up with the mysteries of the *Danes*, and the early history of *Denmark*. The only remarkable feature in this fort is, that I have met with many large stones whose surface is perfectly vitrified. Having placed some of them in a furnace, the glassy surface dissolved, but the greatest heat I could apply would not vitrify the unglazed surface; and from the black appearance of the stones when fractured, they must have been subjected to the action of great heat. I also met with some bones and teeth, which, on examination, proved to be boars' teeth. The bones were reduced to a substance like butter. Only the teeth could be collected. I will send you specimens of the stone, and rubbings of inscriptions, should I find any. I often regretted my inability to send you a rubbing of the Aghaluskys inscription, but I was not in Carberry since my last communication; the weather being then wet, I could not apply the paper to the stone; besides, the inscription is very large, so that it would have been useless to have sent a rubbing taken by any other than myself, as I could not depend on the accuracy of it. I am sure you must be now wearied with me, I have detained you so long.

"Believe me, Rev. dear Sir,

"Your's very faithfully,

"RICHARD CAULFIELD.

"*Rev. Dr. Todd, F. T. C. D., &c.,*

"*Trin. Coll. Dub.*"

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